



Milken Educator Awards

Gregory Lineweaver

Teacher/Director of Instructional Practice
2009

At the time of the Award, Gregory Lineweaver was:

Teacher

Herron High School

Indianapolis, IN

Subject(s) Taught: English/Language

Grade(s): 9-12

Biographical Information:

The courses Gregory Lineweaver teaches at Herron high school in Indianapolis, IN, have become literally the literary talk of the town. After Lineweaver and his anything-but-ordinary English classes were featured on a local TV channel, he became a local celebrity. College professors and college students flocked to observe his classes and see why Lineweaver's techniques have been so effective. At Herron High School, a small, recently-opened charter school, Lineweaver was on the faculty when the school opened, teaching ninth- through twelfth-grades. The first year the school opened, all students in the first graduating class were accepted to colleges. In his second year at Herron, Lineweaver's students had some of the highest English test scores on record in the county. Lineweaver's success is due to his unwavering focus on his students' development, not only as students, but as people. With each new class, Lineweaver makes a point to be in direct contact with the parents of his students, getting to understand each student's unique identity inside and outside of the classroom to create the best learning environment for each individual class. He also deeply values each student's personal expression and uses a variety of creative mediums to engage his students, like "Sonnetpalooza", a coffee house poetry presentation experience that he developed to celebrate and encourage student appreciation of sonnets. At the 2008-09 end of the year student assembly, he stepped up to the podium and the whole auditorium erupted with applause before he even had a chance to speak. For Lineweaver, it must have been poetry to his ears.

Note: This biography was updated on 10/2/2009